

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

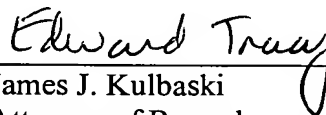
Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-20 are pending in the present Application. Claim 17 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claim 18 is amended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced via this Amendment.

In view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this Application is in condition for examination. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

Edward Tracy  
Registration No. 47,998

I:\ATTY\ET\249816US\249816US-PREAMD2.DOC